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Jordan-PLO talks resume soon

DAMASCUS, April 9 (R). — A Palestinian delegation will visit Amman soon to resume the dialogue with Jordanian leaders, it was announced here today. Mr. Khaled Al Fahoum, Chairman of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) — the Palestinians' parliament-in-exile — said no fixed date for the visit had been set. This depends on the convening of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Executive Committee, expected shortly, he added. The committee will form the delegation and set a date for the resumption of the talks, Mr. Al Fahoum said.

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Yadin: Eastern Jews must be assimilated for M.E. peace

TORONTO, April 9 (AFP). — Peace in the Middle East will be impossible until Israel assimilates its own eastern Jews, Yigal Yadin, head of the New Democratic Front for a Democratic Change (NDFDC), said in a Canadian radio broadcast here last night. "Half our population — Jews who come from Arab countries — are not yet integrated into the Israeli society," Mr. Yadin said. He was interviewed in Israel by telephone. Lasting peace would come only when the Arabs have recognised the state of Israel, he said.

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King Hussein to visit Britain on way to U.S.

AMMAN, (R). — His Majesty King Hussein will fly to the U.S. shortly and pay a visit to Britain on April 18 for a special ceremony to mark the silver jubilee of his own and Queen Elizabeth's reigns. Jordan Radio said Saturday he would go to the U.S. to discuss President Jimmy Carter's peace proposals. The exact date of his visit was not announced. A royal palace announcement said the King would take part in a special ceremony at Windsor Castle, West of London, to mark the two royal jubilees.

The King will be the third in a series of Middle Eastern leaders to meet President Carter this year. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was the first and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt returned home Saturday after his Washington talks. Saudi Crown Prince Fahd is expected to go there some time after mid-May, according to diplomatic sources, and Syrian President Hafez Assad will meet Mr. Carter in Europe in about a month's time.

Jordan Radio quoted Sherif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, Chief of the Royal Court, as saying this country was already in touch with the U.S. concerning Mr. Carter's peace proposals. Commenting on the president's acceptance of the idea of a Palestinian homeland, Sherif Sharaf said the issue was "not a homeland for Palestinians, but the Palestinian homeland." But contacts with the U.S. had made it clear that in Washington's view, such a homeland should be on former Palestinian territory, he added.

HAPPY EASTER

The Jordan Times will not appear next Tuesday to give its staff a break over Easter. We will resume publication on Wednesday — and in the meantime we wish all our readers a happy Easter.

Palestinians, leftists launch attack on Marjeyoun, Qle'a

BEIRUT, April 9 (Agencies). — Fighting flared near the Israeli border in south Lebanon's central sector today, as PLO and Palestinian forces unchained an attack on Marjeyoun and Qle'a, the two principal rightwing strongholds, an informed source said here. The attacking forces, which reached the north eastern approaches of Marjeyoun on Thursday, were now trying to rush into the city itself after a brief lull, the source said. The attack came as the rightwing commander in southern Lebanon, Maj. Hadad, called in an Israeli television interview for the liberation of Lebanon from "occupation by Syria and the Palestinian fedayeen", and said he was breaking off relations with the Lebanese government.

Meanwhile, Lebanese President Elias Sarkis discussed the fighting in the south with Premier Selim Al Hoss and the newly appointed Lebanese army commander, Brig. Victor Khoury.

Informed sources said the re-organisation of the Lebanese army, which fragmented during the Lebanese civil war, and the deployment of a force to pacify south Lebanon were among topics discussed. Rightwing politicians have appealed to Arab leaders to enforce implementation of the 1969 Cairo agreement, among other things, restricts the movement of Palestinian commandos in Lebanon.

Concern over the situation in the south was voiced today by Imam Moussa Al Sadr, head of the Higher Muslim Shiite Council, who discussed latest developments with President Sarkis. He told a press conference that the state should establish its authority in the south "as the Israeli enemy is the only beneficiary from the continuation of tension."

Palestinian commando leader Yasser Arafat today inspected his men in the Nabatiyeh and nearby areas. He was briefed by commando officers on the latest military situation in the region, informed sources said. The PLO leader, escorted by two military vehicles, has just returned to Lebanon after a four-day visit to the Soviet Union. Informed commando sources here said the shelling of Nabatiyeh resumed later in the day.

Egypt backs Moroccan action in Zaire

CAIRO, April 9 (Agencies). — Egypt today officially announced its support for King Hassan of Morocco's decision to send troops to Zaire, the Middle East News Agency reported here.

King Hassan's decision conforms to the charter of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and is justified by the danger "represented by foreign interference in Zaire", the announcement said.

Observers recalled that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat recently broached the Zaire affair with U.S. President Jimmy Carter, announcing his intention to oppose communist infiltration in Africa.

official Azap news agency reported that a first detachment of 1,500 Moroccan troops arrived in Zaire today to help repel an invasion from Angola in the country's copper-rich southeastern area.

The agency also said an Egyptian military delegation had had talks with President Mobutu Sese Soko on arrangements for sending Egyptian troops to Zaire within the next few days.

Senior Egyptian officials here however denied the reports from Kinshasa that Egypt had decided to send soldiers to help repel the invasion. "This is not so. But on the other hand an Egyptian fact-finding mission has been sent to Zaire," the officials said.

Azap made its statements as new warnings came from Angola against any "internationalisation" of the conflict in Zaire's Shaba (formerly Katanga) province. Angolan President Agostinho Neto said in a message to King



Prime Minister Mudar Badran receives Hebron's Mayor Fahd Al Qawasmli and a number of the municipal council members at the premier's office Saturday. (JNA photo).

Hebron delegation meets Badran on first leg of fund-raising tour

AMMAN (Agencies). — The first official delegation from the occupied West Bank town of Hebron to tour Arab countries will start its trip next week, Mr. Fahd Al Qawasmli, the Mayor of Hebron, said here Saturday.

The mayor, who conferred with Prime Minister Mudar Badran, said he would leave for Saudi Arabia next week, and go on to Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait.

Mr. Al Qawasmli asked Mr. Badran to convey to His Majesty King Hussein Hebron's gratitude for Jordan's noble stand in support of citizens in the West Bank.

Hebron is one of five towns in the district south of Jerusalem which have refused to accept development loans from the Israeli military authorities.

Assad visits Moscow on April 18

DAMASCUS, April 9 (R). — Syrian President Hafez Assad will travel to Moscow on April 18 for his first visit to the Soviet Union since 1975, it was announced here and in Moscow today.

President Assad, who is due to meet U.S. President Jimmy Carter in Europe next month, is expected to seek reinforcement of Syrian-Soviet relations during his trip in advance of possible Middle East peace negotiations.

The announcement today follows the return of PLO leader Yasser Arafat from his Moscow visit, and the completion of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's trip to the United States.

Mr. Assad will have time before he goes to brief himself fully on the two leaders' talks in the superpower capitals.

The announcement here said he would take with him to Moscow a high-level delegation of government leaders and officials of the ruling Baath Party.

Diplomatic sources said Syria was expected to voice its concern to Soviet leaders about arms supplies to Iraq, which is ruled by a rival wing of the Baath Party.

In Rabat, a source close to the Moroccan government said the Angolan warning to King Hassan was unlikely to deter his country's determination to help Zaire "strictly in an African context."

In New York, the CBS radio network broadcast an interview with President Sadat in which he said he hoped Egypt would do something to help Zaire.

Mr. Sadat said President Mobutu had asked Egypt for assistance. In Kinshasa, 300,000 workers joined a march in support of President Mobutu's government, Azap reported.

Carter for Palestinian presence at Geneva

CAIRO, April 9 (AFP). — Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was not empty-handed when he returned from the U.S. today, according to observers here following an unprecedented declaration by President Jimmy Carter on the need for Palestinian participation in a resumed Geneva Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Carter's "little phrase", uttered less than 24 hours after Mr. Sadat left Washington, could open the way to dialogue between the U.S. and the Palestine Liberation Organisation observers said.

Mr. Sadat, who expressed increased optimism after three meetings with Mr. Carter this week, had often said such a dialogue would solve many problems, and confirmed that he had discussed the "possibility" with Mr. Carter.

Observers also noted that the PLO had earlier taken the initiative with concrete measures to facilitate dialogue with the U.S., reorganising its Executive Committee last month so that its members now accept a negotiated settlement.

According to today's New York Times, President Sadat foresees the possibility of normal relations between his country and Israel within five years of the signing of a peace treaty in Geneva.

President Sadat also mentioned the possibility of bringing in new interim measures to improve relations between Israel and Cairo while awaiting a solution to the conflict, the paper added. But U.S. officials noted he only spoke in general terms without going into details on this matter.

People in Lahore said today's trouble was worse than previous riots which brought down the autocratic regime of the late Field Marshal Mohomed Ayub Khan in 1969.

Clashes began when police tried to stop protest marches by the nine-party opposition Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) against convening of a new Punjab province assembly.

Sporadic clashes lasted all day and the air was thick with tear gas.

Witnesses said five people were shot to death when police fired on demonstrators taking refuge under the red brick portico of the high court.

The main street — called the Mall — was strewn with rubble. Unconfirmed reports said a policeman was beaten to death.

Police with batons and tear gas broke up two processions of lawyers.

Several hundred women in head-to-foot burqas (veils) and children demonstrated, and were tear-gassed. The PNA said one woman lost an eye when hit by a tear gas shell.

PNA sources said some women were beaten with police batons and a dozen women were in hospital.

The PNA has called for a day of national mourning tomorrow for victims of what it alleged was indiscriminate police fire. It also urged further Lahore demonstrations tomorrow.

Its acting president, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, contradicted an earlier report it put out that he had been arrested.

Some of the street battles took place barely 200 metres from the provincial assembly where 232 elected members of Mr. Bhutto's party took the oath of office.

The opposition boycotted elections to provincial assemblies after alleging that the polling for the federal parliament was rigged on March 7.

Mr. Bhutto, in Lahore for consultations today, denies the rigging and declines to hold new polls, as the opposition demands.

Allon drops out of race for Labour Party nomination

Voters may be offered Peres, Allon, Eban package deal

TEL AVIV, April 9 (R). — Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said tonight he had decided not to seek the leadership of the governing Labour Party in order to avoid any bruising personality clashes inside the party before general elections in May.

Mr. Allon made his decision known to Israel Radio after meeting Defence Minister Shimon Peres.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said earlier this week that he wanted to step down as party leader because of disclosures of illegal bank accounts of his and his wife maintained in Washington.

Mr. Allon and Mr. Peres had been considered the main contenders for the party leadership, although commentators suggested that Mr. Peres' position was too strong for the foreign minister to overcome.

After meeting Mr. Peres, the foreign minister told Israel Radio: "It is now too close to the day of the general elections and it might inflict harm on our prospect of winning the elections if we proceed now with personal rivalry and competition for leadership," he said.

The elections will be held on May 17. Earlier today, Labour Party Secretary General Meir Zarmi suggested that a triumvirate of Mr. Peres, Mr. Allon and former Foreign Minister Abba Eban lead the party together into the election.

The secretary general suggested that Mr. Peres head the Labour list as its candidate for prime minister, but that Foreign Minister Yigal Allon be promised the post of deputy premier and defence minister, and that Mr. Abba Eban be foreign minister in a new government if Labour wins the elections.

If the triumvirate of Mr. Peres, Mr. Allon and Mr. Eban, who was foreign minister under Mrs. Golda Meir, does emerge it could help prevent Labour's leftwing partner, Mapam, from making a threatened break.

Mapam has refused to serve under Mr. Peres because of his hawkish views on territorial concessions to the Arabs. It could change its mind if Mr. Peres' attitude is balanced by

Mr. Eban and Mr. Allon, considered far more flexible. In an apparent bid to moderate his hawkish image, Mr. Peres told Radio Israel today that he expected the momentum towards a Middle East peace settlement to continue following the shock decision by Mr. Rabin to resign.

Mr. Peres said "We expect the Geneva conference (on the Middle East) to reconvene in the second half of 1977 and I do not think there will be any changes in the trends of our foreign policy, despite all this talk aboutawks and doves."

Meanwhile, there have been strong demands for Mr. Rabin to reconsider his decision, and hundreds of people have signed petitions circulated in the streets asking him to continue in office.

Israel Radio reported today that Mr. Rabin had agreed to run for parliament in the May 17 election despite his announcement that he will quit as prime minister.

Senior Labour Party officials said today he would certainly appear in their election list and be assured of a place in the Knesset.

The Labour Party's Central Committee will decide on Sunday where to place Mr. Rabin on the party's ticket of candidates, the radio said.

Sources close to Mr. Rabin also said he was determined to make a political comeback after clearing up his legal difficulties, which a former state attorney today described "as no more serious than a traffic offence."

The Rabins are under investigation for holding a foreign currency account in Washington, after Mr. Rabin had returned from five years as ambassador. The regulation banning bank accounts abroad dates back to the Second World War and is completely outdated today, legal experts said.

But Mr. Rabin took the only possible step for a leader who has fought to build up his image as an outspoken foe of corruption, many Israelis felt today.

Gen. Gur said the Syrian army now was split up and "would find it difficult to launch an offensive, or even to defend Damascus."

"But they have the capability of waging a limited war for political aims," he added. "I do not think the Syrians want to take too many chances, but the possibility nevertheless remains."

The chief of staff said that the Jordanian army was undergoing a radical change and "will soon be like the Israeli army in its capacity for manoeuvre and mobility."

He described the Egyptian army as large and strong enough to wage war "especially as there is today talk of a war for political objectives, and not of an extended war."

Counting the Communists, there are now 116 parties granted legal status and 26 awaiting government decision. Most of these are small groups to the left of the Communists.

The democratic opposition has long called for the legislation of all parties. It was not known what the government intended to do about these groups, which include Maoists, Trotskyites and also the Carlist Party, led by Prince Carlos Hugo de Borbon-Parma, the Carlist pretender to the Spanish throne held by his distant cousin, King Juan Carlos.

For the Communists, the long years of proscription virtually ended last Dec. 30 when Senor Carrillo was released from jail. Senor Carrillo had been in Spain, working underground, from the previous February until he and six members of the party Executive Committee were arrested in December and charged with illegal association.

It is expected the charges against them now will be dropped.

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Israeli chief of staff warns against Syrian, Palestinian alliance

TEL AVIV, April 9 (R). — Israel's chief of staff said today that relations between Israel and Syria could be endangered if the Palestinians in Lebanon reached agreement with the Syrians.

Lt-Gen. Mordchaal Gur said in an interview with the Israeli army radio station that renewed guerrilla activity against Israel might result from such an agreement.

"In that case we could not sit by idly. It could be a very dangerous point in relations between Israel and Syria," Gen. Gur said.

He did not elaborate on the nature of a possible agreement between the Palestinians and Syria.

However, he said Israel should presume that Syrian influence in Lebanon would be dominant for a long time to come.

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33 reported killed, 200 wounded in worst clashes with Pakistan police for years

LAHORE, April 9 (R). — At least 33 people were killed today when demonstrations against the government of Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto flared into the worst riots in the politically volatile Punjab province for years, usually reliable sources said.

Most were killed by police bullets, the sources said.

They said hard-pressed police opened fire in Lahore, where 26 people died, as mobs rampaged through the city of two million people burning banks and setting three banks on fire.

More than 200 people were wounded, the sources said, and about 120 arrested.

Troops moved in from the outskirts to deploy near Governor's House, where Mr. Bhutto was staying.

The sources added that seven more demonstrators died when police in the southern Punjab town of Leiah fired on opponents of Mr. Bhutto.

The riots were the latest in a month of mass agitation organised by politicians who alleged that Mr. Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party rigged elections that swept it back to power on March 7.

The disturbances of the past month — the death toll in that time is now more than 120 — have hitherto been mainly in and near the port city of Karachi.

Volatile Lahore is Pakistan's second biggest city — after Karachi — and is the capital of the Punjab, the most populous province and main army recruiting ground.

People in Lahore said today's trouble was worse than previous riots which brought down the autocratic regime of the late Field Marshal Mohomed Ayub Khan in 1969.

Clashes began when police tried to stop protest marches by the nine-party opposition Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) against convening of a new Punjab province assembly.

Sporadic clashes lasted all day and the air was thick with tear gas.

Witnesses said five people were shot to death when police fired on demonstrators taking refuge under the red brick portico of the high court.

The main street — called the Mall — was strewn with rubble. Unconfirmed reports said a policeman was beaten to death.

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Some of the street battles took place barely 200 metres from the provincial assembly where 232 elected members of Mr. Bhutto's party took the oath of office.

The opposition boycotted elections to provincial assemblies after alleging that the polling for the federal parliament was rigged on March 7.

Mr. Bhutto, in Lahore for consultations today, denies the rigging and declines to hold new polls, as the opposition demands.

Spain legalises Communist Party

MADRID, April 9, (R). — The government has legalised the Spanish Communist Party, outlawed since the end of the 1936-39 civil war, party Secretary General Santiago Carrillo said tonight.

The Europa Press news agency said that both Senor Carrillo and Ramon Tamames, a top member of the party's executive committee, said they had just been informed by government sources of the news.

There was no immediate announcement by the government. But official sources confirmed that the Communist Party had been made legal.

They said the decision was made after consultations with high-ranking judicial authorities, including the chief prosecutor.

The Supreme Court last Saturday gave back to the government the Communist Party's application for legal status, refusing to rule on whether the party infringed Spain's law against political groups which are subject to international discipline and want to impose a totalitarian system in Spain.

Passed last summer by the holdover Franco-era Cortes (parliament) the law was meant specifically to outlaw the Communists.

But the party contends it is independent of the Soviet Union and wants to see democracy installed here.

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It is expected the charges against them now will be dropped.

هكذا صوتنا

At start of important seminar

Prince Hassan stresses role of housing in development

AMMAN (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan told Arab delegations attending the Arab Housing Seminar here Saturday that the Jordanian private sector had participated with more than 40 per cent of the JD 200 million the country was able to raise in investments during the past three years.

Prince Hassan, who opened the Arab Housing Seminar held at the Professional Association Building, added that Jordan's investment objectives set forth by its planners had been achieved.

"What interests us here in Jordan and in other Arab countries witnessing the same development process is the link between planning, organisation of construction on the one hand and between the various technical meetings that are taking place to reach a unified conception of planning and implementation of development projects," he explained.

The Crown Prince expressed his hope that a number of meetings would be held this year to work out a clearer picture of housing, environment and organisation, and to open the door for Arab technicians to start a technical dialogue.

Prince Hassan stated that the planning, organisation and coordination sectors are the mainstay of development. "We achieved much in the first sector," he added, "after stability returned to this country, and have now elaborated the objectives we want to attain. We nearly succeeded in achieving them, but the difficult political situation in the region and the great challenge we face, which obliges us to double our efforts for progress and positive work behind us back."

He hoped that the participants would be able to make visits to the Jordan Valley to look over the Jordanian experiment there and the methods adopted to implement its projects.

He finally reiterated Jordan's

adherence to all resolutions the seminar adopts, which can create better conditions for the Arab nation.

The Arab Housing Seminar is organized by the Arab Engineers Union. Discussion will centre on housing in the Arab world and the formulation of scientific solutions to eliminate the housing crisis by making low cost housing units available.

Prince Hassan was followed on the stand by the President of the Jordanian Engineers Association, Mr. Ibrahim Abu Ayash, who thanked the Crown Prince for sponsoring the Arab Engineers week being held in Jordan to discuss housing problems.

Jordan has achieved much in the housing field in its three-year and present five-year development plans, he added. Ensuring suitable housing units for people in the limited income bracket is vital and a cornerstone of stability, he concluded.

The president of the Arab Engineers Union emphasised the importance of housing as it is closely linked to living conditions.

The Arab countries are obliged to adopt a comprehensive housing policy to run parallel with economic and social development, he said.

The opening session was attended by Court Minister Amer Khammash; Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaid; the ministers of interior, industry and commerce, transport and public works; the director of the Housing Corporation; the heads of Arab diplomatic missions in Jordan and a number of Jordanian engineers.

Earlier, Prince Hassan met with delegation heads and explained to them Jordan's experience in the economic and in particular the housing field.

He also stressed the importance of activating Arab investment funds and their profits to finance a number of large Arab development projects, and the importance of the private sector in the development process.

Heads of a number of Arab delegations afterwards expressed their admiration of Jordan's achievements and said that Arab countries should follow Jordan's example in its support of the engineering sector.

During the afternoon session, the participants elected Mr. Abu Ayash as Chairman of the seminar; President of the Syrian Engineers Association Hisham Al Sati as Vice Chairman; and Housing Corporation head Hamdallah Nabulsi as rapporteur.

Two committees were formed to study 35 research papers presented by the various delegations. Eight were submitted by Jordan.

The first committee is headed by Egypt's Mustafa Hifnawi with Kuwait's Walid Rimawi as his deputy and Mohammad Saud Az'azi from South Yemen as rapporteur.

The second committee has Iraq's Mahmoud Hamandi as its President with Syria's Jihad Issa as his deputy and Ziyad Al Mutasir from Libya as rapporteur.

Industrialists to discuss social security scheme Tuesday

AMMAN (JNA). — A meeting will take place at Amman Chamber of Industry Tuesday to discuss the proposed social security scheme. The meeting will be attended by a number of factory owners and businessmen.

Mr. Ali Dajani, the director of the Chamber, said that he has already asked industrialists to submit their recommendations and opinions on the subject before Thursday, when Minister of Industry Issam Ajlouni will preside over a meeting to discuss the scheme.

Jordan, Syria plan single trade stand in Bulgaria

DAMASCUS, April 9 (JNA). — The Jordanian Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Syrian Ministry of Economy will set up a joint pavilion at Plovdiv Fair in Bulgaria starting Sept. 3.

A 200-square-metre lot has been reserved at the fair for that purpose.

The special committee entrusted to coordinate the participation of the two countries at international fairs decided recently that Jordan and Syria will have a single pavilion at all Arab and international fairs in which the two countries decide to participate.



Prince Hassan delivers the opening speech at a housing seminar in Amman Saturday. The seminar, attended by representatives of 10 countries, will look into ways of easing housing shortages that plague specific areas of the Arab World. (JNA photo).

Basma opens seminar for social workers

IRBID (JNA). — Her Highness Princess Basma opened a seminar for social workers at the Industrial Secondary School here Saturday.

Princess Basma stressed the importance of voluntary social work and the necessity of backing it financially and technically by providing social centres with experienced staff that can change aims into realities.

Her Highness called for more serious work in a field that serves important sectors of society. She pointed out that King Hussein's letter entrusting her with this sacred duty is proof enough of the noble nature of the task to which she will dedicate much of her time.

Minister of Labour Issam Ajlouni thanked Princess Basma for sponsoring the seminar, in which 60 heads of social organisations in Irbid Governorate participated. He said its aim was to review social problems facing those in the field and to discuss both the drawbacks and achievements of the subject.

SOVIET HELP FOR ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS MOOTED

AMMAN (JNA). — The director general of the Jordan Electricity Authority received the Soviet ambassador to Jordan Saturday and discussed with him the possibility of the Soviet Union taking part in electrification projects in the Jordanian countryside.

Representatives of social work associations talked about the importance of voluntary social work in developing the community and called for special curricula and training for those working in nurseries.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	571.0	577.0
U.S. dollar	331.0	333.0
German mark	139.1	139.5
French franc	66.8	67.0
Swiss franc	130.9	131.3
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.4	37.6
Saudi riyal	93.6	93.8
Lebanese pound	109.4	109.6
Syrian pound	81.8	82.0
Iraqi dinar	942.0	950.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,150.0	1,155.0
Libyan dinar	800.0	820.0
Egyptian pound	470.0	471.0
UAE dirham	65.2	65.5

RIVER JORDAN BRIDGES CLOSE APRIL 20 - 22

AMMAN (JNA). — It has been announced that the bridges over the River Jordan will be closed to traffic from Wednesday April 20 at noon until Friday April 22, when they will be open again from the morning.

What's Going On

The British Council presents Part 11 and Part 12 of the film series "Civilisation". Part 11: The Worship of Nature; and Part 12: The Fallacies of Hope. 6:30 p.m., on Monday, at the British Council Hall.

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Engineers Union pushes institutes in Jerusalem

AMMAN (JNA). — The Higher Council of the Arab Engineers Union concluded its meetings Saturday by passing a series of resolutions expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people, and in particular stressing the need to set up polytechnic and engineering institutes in Jerusalem.

The Higher Council elected Ahmad Al Hakimi as President; Dr. Ahmad Al Aryan as Secretary General; and Hisham Al Sati and Mohammad Al Haj Omar as his deputies.

The Executive Committee was also elected. It includes Jordan's Ibrahim Abu Ayash as Vice President, Ali Ammourah as Treasurer and Afif Al Rawi as a member.

The Executive Committee approved a number of resolutions and recommendations:

— to back Palestinian engineers and to name April 10 as a day of solidarity with the Palestinian engineer to be observed by all regional engineering organisations;

— to support the Palestinian Liberation Organisation;

— to denounce Israeli treatment of Palestinian prisoners;

— to object to Israeli mistreatment of citizens in the occupied lands;

— to denounce the establishment of Israeli settlements in Arab occupied territories and to call upon Arab and international organisations to work to stop these Israeli activities aimed at draining the land of its original inhabitants;

— to adopt and back the establishment of a polytechnic institute and vocational training centre in Jerusalem;

— to study the feasibility of establishing a faculty of engineering in Jerusalem;

— to recommend to Arab countries that they should facilitate the entry of students from the occupied territories into colleges and universities;

— to prepare for a seminar on support for the people of the occupied territories.

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"Star Trek" inspires a futuristic cult among viewers

Thousands of science fiction fans are holding conventions in U.S. cities to pay homage to "Star Trek" -- the television space adventure series they have persistently kept alive. Though cancelled by a major T.V. network in 1969, the futuristic show is still telecast, through re-runs, on many American T.V. stations -- and in 117 other countries, too.

NEW YORK (IPS) — A bizarre air pervades Star Trek conventions. Science fiction addicts revel, as if participants in a futuristic and supernatural ritual, and the thin line between fantasy and reality often blurs.

For instance, communications antennas sprout from patiently coiffured hair of middle-aged women. Green-skinned slave girls undulate, their slim bodies luminous in circles of spotlight. Young men brandish phaser guns, the ultimate weapon of the Star Trek crew. Others, in gold jersey shirts and black bloused trousers, wiggle pointed ears.

Pointed, you say? It could well be the set for a new Stanley Kubrick space film. But these are not actors.

They do have one thing in common, though: They all call themselves "Trekkies," all devoted fans of television's "Star Trek," a science fiction adventure series that refused to die on a dusty shelf. At these so-called fantasy conventions, staged irregularly in U.S. cities, they come to pay homage to the U. S. S. Enterprise spaceship and its crew, now soaring regularly across millions

of T.V. screens in America and 117 other countries.

For in the past 10 years, since its premiere episode was telecast, "Star Trek" has grown into a cult phenomenon of cosmic proportions.

"I can't pretend to understand it," says William Shatner, the actor who commands the Enterprise on its voyages to strange worlds. "To me 'Star Trek' is just a part I played, and that's that."

On the other hand, Leonard Nimoy, who plays the pointy-eared second-in-command, concedes: "It's really not all that inexplicable. The Star Trek crew won out against viciousness, demagoguery and destructiveness. The show said that decency is ultimately worthwhile. After assassinations, Watergate, the Vietnam war and all the horrors of the last 15 years, it's easy to see why people can relate to that."

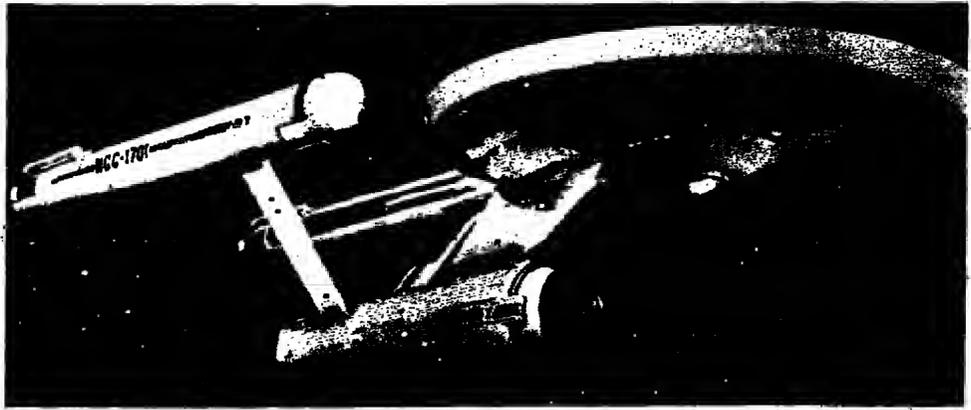
As each "Star Trek" episode opens, an ominous voice intones: "Space, the final frontier. These are the voyages of the starship Enterprise, her five-year mission to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no man has gone before."

"Star Trek's" mission has been, however, something less than smooth. The National Broadcasting Company (NBC) first televised the series in 1966. By 1969 production costs had climbed; the show had scored less-than-impressive ratings. Rumors that all wasn't well with starship Enterprise circulated.

Determined to hang on to their futuristic world, the show's fervent fans swamped NBC with more than a million letters -- pleading with the network to continue the T.V. series. Yet NBC, unconvinced that the show had such multiplicity of loyal viewers, dropped the series anyway. Independent T.V. stations rescued the programme. They began showing "Star Trek" re-runs in early night time slots, tapping the show's lifeline -- younger T.V. viewers. Ratings were remarkable. More stations picked up the re-runs. Today the re-runs -- all told, 79 episodes -- are syndicated by Paramount Pictures, Inc., to 160 U.S. T.V. stations.

In the early 1970s "Star Trek" fans in New York City assembled at a convention -- the first science fiction convention ever to revolve around a single television show. About 50 Trekkies were expected. Three thousand showed up.

Manifestation of the cult was evident. More cities followed suit. In 1975 more than 15,000 Trekkies jammed Chicago's Conrad Hilton Hotel to glimpse the Enterprise's Captain Kirk (Shatner) and Mr. Spock (Nimoy).



The USS Enterprise space ship on its voyage to strange worlds.

Star Trek conventions now total about 10 a year, connecting the Trekkies and the object of their fanaticism.

David Gerrold, who wrote "The World of Star Trek," the authoritative source for the T.V. series, believes the T.V. show is surviving because young audiences are looking for a level of interaction and communication with their T.V. sets. "The television set is one-way. It's from the T.V. to you. And young audiences are looking for a way to talk back, to get inside that television set. And the Star Trek phenomenon is a way to get into the Star Trek culture. The fans are coming to the conventions and talking back to the stars, the

writers, to the various production people and they say "Why did you do this?" and "How about this?"

Part of the show's appeal may be its narrative simplicity: The good guys-versus-bad guys perception of the universe. In each episode the Enterprise crew -- an amalgam of races and nationalities -- encounters strange beings from strange worlds, such as the Klingons, diabolical warriors from another galaxy. The crew are all earthlings, excepting Mr. Spock, from the planet Vulcan.

Though "Star Trek" surfeits high adventure and futuristic gadgetry, it is basically a show of personalities. Captain Kirk combines courage and com-

passion. Mr. Spock, the system's right-hand man, tackles problems only with logic; he is emotionless. Their mission directive is nonaggressive; they make no judgments about new worlds they visit in their intergalactic journeys.

At Star Trek conventions the Trekkies' ultimate joy is to see -- in person -- their fictional heroes. They watch reverently as Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock "materialise." They ask questions, they give their heroes gifts, they applaud. Besides the stars of "Star Trek," some Trekkies have talked with other crew members of the spaceship Enterprise; with Gene Roddenberry, the show's creator-producer, and with Isaac

Asimov, educator and estimable science fiction writer. They watch "Star Trek" episodes; they whirl at masquerade balls; they compete in trivia contests. It's an emotional reunion -- with characters from the future. Yet most Trekkies regard the fantastical hoopla as harmless.

"They've accepted it and taken it into their hearts so much," says Mr. Gerrold, "that 'Star Trek' is more real to most of these kids than a lot of anything else they see on T.V., including the six o'clock news."

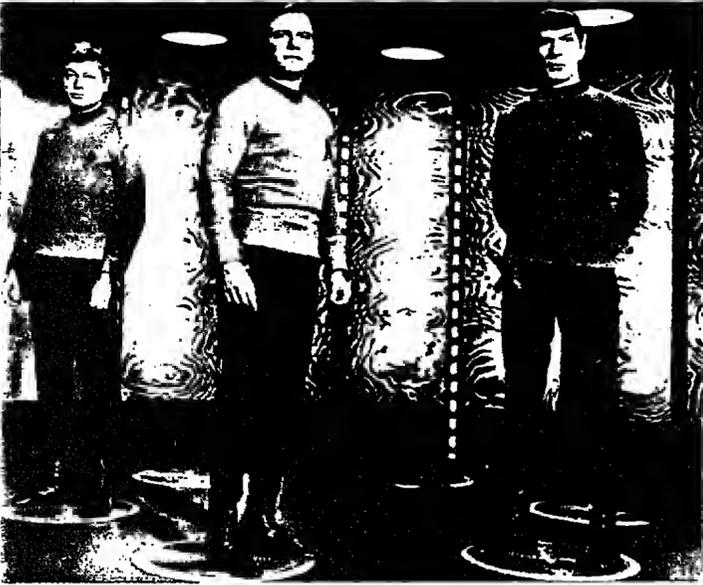
Moreover, there is further evidence of "Star Trek's" undaunted cult. Commercial memorabilia abounds. There

are Star Trek uniforms, medals, dolls and books, including blueprints of the spaceship Enterprise and a regulations manual. Paramount Pictures has scheduled a "Star Trek" movie with the original cast. "Fanzines" -- magazines published by Trekkies -- fan club addresses, Star Trek information, and inside news at Washington, D.C., the original studio model of the U. S. S. Enterprise is exhibited in the Smithsonian Institution's new Air and Space Museum.

Why all the devotion? "Star Trek" is well written; it is commendable production values. Yet so have other television shows. Perhaps, then, is "Star Trek's" fundamental theme that confers its persistent magic. War is wrong, it says, and violence should be a last resort. Moreover, it shows a communication brotherhood -- a black communication officer, an orient and a Russian navigator, Scottish engineer -- all working towards one end.

Perhaps the show happens at the right time, a time of Vietnam war, of civil rights protests, of assassinations of television -- a troubled time when T.V. viewers wanted an assurance of a future world.

Perhaps Mr. Gerrold sum it best: "Star Trek" is a show that says: Look, there will be a future. It'll be a pretty good future. We're still going to have problems. The human race has always had problems and we will learn to solve them by dealing with them rationally."



The "Star Trek" crew: Captain Kirk, Major Nelson and Mr. Spock.

New York City squeezes through latest debt by means of federal loans

NEW YORK, N.Y. (CSM). — New York, which barely squeezed through its latest financial crisis, has been promised federal loans by the Carter administration over the next five to six years to help keep the city's bills paid.

The federal help will take the form of "seasonal" or short-term loans, says New York Mayor Abraham D. Beame.

It was an 11th-hour, short-term federal loan to New York of \$225 million that enabled the city to meet its latest deadline (March 11) on repaying debts.

In an interview Mayor Beame said the federal help would eliminate the need for investment in city securities by financial institutions outside New York's five boroughs.

"We already have under study options for financial assistance (for New York) if it is needed after June, 1978," says U.S. Treasury Secretary W. Michael Blumenthal. However, he said, any assistance for New York would require "that

the city's budget be continuously in balance," and the city must make permanent fiscal reforms.

Mr. Beame explained that the city's plan to pay off \$983 million in short-term debts, as hammered out March 9 and 10, hinged on two key proposals -- and if these were successful the "other things will fall into place."

The two proposals, he said, are: (1) sale of city housing project mortgages ("I think they can achieve \$410 million") and (2) swap of long-term Municipal Assistance Corporation (MAC) bonds for shorter-term city securities which is expected to extend city loans of about \$250 to \$300 million.

By law, Mayor Beame must submit a balanced fiscal 1978 budget to the city council by April 15. Mr. Beame said that it "would be appropriate to get balancing the budget behind me" before announcing his decision on a bid for reelection.

Mayor Beame thinks "crime"



NYC Mayor Abraham Beame

is the single biggest problem facing New York. But he said he would put the need for new jobs near to crime in order of importance. "Unemployment and crime work together," he said, adding that "we have to find new ways of keeping our kids occupied."

Almost echoing recent statements by Manhattan Borough President Percy E. Sutton, the prominent black politician who announced his candidacy for mayor Jan. 26, Mr. Beame said city law-enforcement officials "must take tougher actions with respect to juvenile crime. Our courts have become a revolving door."

Mr. Sutton says Mayor Beame has failed to provide the necessary leadership to deal with the city's mushrooming crime problem.

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(formerly The New York Herald Tribune Crossword)
Edited by Herb Eitzen

SPRING FESTIVAL
By H.B.

<p>1 Rous's look 5 Sharp 10 Duck 14 Bib. verb 19 Rented 21 It. actress 22 Vegetables 23 Have a spat 24 S. Pacific 26 Colored ova 28 Money in the pot 29 Hero 30 Medicinal 32 Randall or Martin 33 Squealer 34 Highway: abbr. 35 "Maria" 36 Turn aside 38 Shed tears 39 Robinson's "Richard" 40 Strong wind 43 Mimic 45 Lat. abbr. 47 New Mex. Indian 48 Hanoi holiday</p>	<p>49 Business chore 51 Pitchers 54 Moved heavily 57 Taste 58 Light cloth 60 Reasonable 61 Drink: Fr. place 62 Acted the model 63 Walloped: old style 64 Modern 65 Were close together 67 Certain 68 Avoid 69 Things to aim at: abbr. 70 Macaws 71 Work on the turkey 72 Ruler of old 74 Moshe of Israel 75 Zona west of Greenwich 77 Officials, for short</p>	<p>81 River boats 83 Tautonic goddesses 84 "—, say nought" 85 Items in the yard 88 Very long periods 89 Impressive display 90 Large land mass 91 Parseghian 92 Become indistinct 93 Jazz dance 94 Golf term 95 Goose or two 96 Part of ICBM 98 Newcastle items 99 Secured a grant for old 101 Outer 102 Walk leisurely 104 Remote 105 Poetic contraction 106 Always</p>	<p>108 Western city 109 Wife of the composer of 69D 114 Center 116 By two, in music 118 Dawn 120 Corn unit 121 Daughter of Cadmus 122 After Sept. 123 Celabes ox 124 Adjutant: abbr. 125 Partly open 127 Weaver's reed 128 Book about my lawn 131 pine 134 Earth: Fr. 135 Pipe part 136 Liturgies 137 Bed items 138 Having weapons 139 Dot of land 140 Pung and juge 141 Bone: lt.</p>
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-4/10/77

<p>1 Shed 2 Religious time 3 It. noble family 4 Female ruff 5 Too 6 Compered carefully 7 Tail suffix 8 Gentle 9 Witch town 10 Graf — 11 — culpa 12 — Church</p>	<p>13 Bar legally 14 Cooper or 15 Mine output 16 Spring lawn event 17 Sweetener 18 Like a crab 19 Become aware 20 Ambition 25 Brinchild 27 Heraldic 31 Goes hungry</p>	<p>35 Seeker of Moby Dick 37 Doc, of a kind 38 Have on 39 "All is —" 41 Bank note 42 Carbine 44 Urga 46 Perfectly 49 High-jump method 50 Modest 52 Oil</p>	<p>53 Uses a needle 54 Girl in a song 55 Holiday times 56 Clear 57 Interpret 59 Turner of song 60 Food fish 62 Work for actors 63 Fakes 66 Byway</p>	<p>67 Diamond comers 68 Polished 69 "... in — Parade" 71 Michael of movies 72 Curved sink pipe 73 Finished 75 Wears away</p>	<p>76 Standards 78 Topical flowers 79 Worked hard 80 Rebuff 82 Actual 84 Of course! 85 Renewal 86 Severeid 87 Eng. court session</p>	<p>89 Bewildered 90 Have dinner 92 Dossier 93 In the near future 94 — mutual 97 Put money away 98 Indian 99 Examined by touch</p>	<p>100 — do-well 103 Absentees from school 104 Viral disease 107 Used the bell 108 Involvement 110 Approach Farm 111 buildings</p>	<p>112 Unsaid: lt 113 Poet of "The Highwayman" 114 Terra — 115 Yellow pigment 117 "— say, not as ..." 119 Addicts 123 Senile</p>	<p>124 Beloved: Fr. 126 Strap for a hawk 127 "— the sweetheart ..." 129 Previous to 130 Small state: abbr. 132 Holy woman: abbr. 133 Which one</p>
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Diagramless 17 X 17, by Michael Priestley

<p>1 Wearing 5 Author 9 Chicago airport 10 Bancrot 11 Truth 15 Crazy 16 Cain's sib 17 Spaghetti 19 Headlong flight</p>	<p>20 Not any 24 Descended 26 Average 29 Medical 32 Mississippi tributary 36 Chose 37 "— for All Seasons" 38 Hackney 39 — Magnon 40 Seed 41 Legatee</p>	<p>43 Divan 47 Sheer linen 49 Find out 51 Room 52 Acted generously 53 Kind of dancer 54 High rock 55 500 sheets 57 Sp. hero 60 Florence, to Italians 63 Part of DMZ 64 Await</p>	<p>66 Means of expression 67 Secondhand 68 Political writer 69 Heming's cousin 70 Gun handle DOWN 1 Queen of — 2 Sheik's bevy 3 Spokan 4 After Nov. 5 Room: Sp. 6 Soon</p>	<p>7 Rare 8 Gorcey of films 9 Backtrack 12 Architectural style 13 Foxy dance 14 Hankering 18 Columbus' port 22 Cup handle 23 Cut thinly 24 Supped 25 Cover 27 Elec. unit 28 Inlet</p>	<p>29 Ice cream flavor 30 Fr. battle 31 Impassive one 33 Stale</p>	<p>34 Napoleon's taste 35 More mature 42 Relax 43 Astral sea creature 44 Rowing need</p>	<p>45 Zounds! 46 Previn or Waxes 47 Kid's game 48 Mrs. Lennon 50 Gr. letter 51 Ladies</p>	<p>53 Mideast land strip 56 Photo abbr. 57 Gold or ivory 58 Lump of metal 59 Profound 61 "Lightbulb" 62 Fox 63 Afr. tribe 64 With or mini or mini 66 Chatter</p>
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CRYPTOGRAMS

1. SCAO N'WRNWZ YEHFNT CY RCZORI H
FOLOWLCAO TEN UCYOY SHCURI OHURI.
—By India M. Sperry

2. JUSTARD CHYWRKY AKIIND: DCHIFND
ERIFONFSYNX SY DEWRRU JUSTFORKIX
DCHIFD.
—By Barbara J. Ragg

3. ALB AD REABEER UNTESH TE DBNX UBAA
ALTESH!
—By Charles Emory

4. ESSENTAIL OTHITO JEAY HJ SD LRS SPRAY
SUD ONRISO' UDYSP AI.
—By Rose Santora

Last Week's Cryptograms

- Friendly guy gives five bowls of turtle soup to poor boy in new dwelling.
- Troubled dogwood tree would rather be in nearly dogless woods than in nearly treeless yard.
- Plain plane landed on open plain.
- Child crunching oven-bried waters drove his grandpa up a wall.

مركز الصناعات

Addressing non-aligned bureau PLO urges action on U.N. resolutions

NEW DELHI, April 9 (R). — Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), today called on non-aligned and Third World countries to find a way of implementing United Nations resolutions on the Palestinian question.

Mr. Kaddoumi was speaking at the plenary session of the 25-member non-aligned coordinating bureau here today. The plenary adjourned for the week-end after a brief morning session today. Two committees continued work on a communique to be put before Monday's session.

Mr. Kaddoumi said that while the Palestinian people would continue their struggle to secure a home for themselves in Palestine and for the right to determine their own destiny without outside interference, the international community should help them achieve their aspirations.

The non-aligned movement alone could contribute to the ushering in of a peaceful and safe world, he said. But peace and security would never be

achieved if the colonial racist forces continued to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.

Jamaican Foreign Minister P.J. Patterson called for a constant critical review and improvement of the functioning of the non-aligned movement.

"If we are constantly and grossly maligned by our detractors, it is because they recognise that our movement has never been stronger," he said.

"We must always appreciate, however, that the further growth of the non-aligned movement, and indeed its very survival, depends on its ability to adjust to the changing currents of international relations and also on its effectiveness in fulfilling the aspirations of its membership," he added.

Mr. Patterson said declarations of political positions and statements about economic cooperation were not enough. Hand in hand with this, it was necessary to create "the appropriate continuing machinery which will assist the bureau in ensuring that our position, schemes and proposals are put into effect."

U.K. football roundup Ipswich, Liverpool run home together

LONDON, April 9, (R). — Ipswich and Liverpool kept going stride for stride at the top of the English football league first division today as each scored their 20th win of the season.

A 24th minute goal by Trevor Whyman earned Ipswich a 1-0 victory at Norwich and kept them in first place on goal difference with 47 points from 35 games. Liverpool, also on 47 points but with a game in hand, beat Manchester City 2-1 at home to stay firmly in the running for a unique treble of the league title, the English F.A. Cup and the European Cup.

Their successes today meant Ipswich and Liverpool opened a three-point gap on their pursuers. Manchester City are third with 44 points followed by Newcastle on 43 and Manchester United, who moved up into fifth place on 40 points with a 3-0 win over Stoke City. Newcastle squandered a fine opportunity to join Manchester

City on 44 points, as they dropped a point to Leicester City in a goalless draw. Newcastle looked a class above Leicester for most of the match and enjoyed considerable territorial advantage but were unable to convert any of the numerous scoring opportunities that came their way.

At the lower end of the first division, Bristol City stayed in bottom place as they went down 3-0 at Birmingham, but relegation-threatened West Ham had an encouraging 1-1 draw at Coventry. Bryan 'pop' Robson scored West Ham's equaliser late in the game.

Another London club, Tottenham Hotspur, eased their relegation worries with a 3-0 win over Queen's Park Rangers.

Chelsea recovered well from their 3-1 defeat at Fulham yesterday, beating Luton 2-0 to return to the top of the second division ahead of Wolverhampton, who were held 2-2 at Cardiff.



CHINESE PRISONERS — An armed guard (centre) stands behind bound prisoners in a truck in Wuhan, China while the prisoners are on public display. Placards with the prisoners' names and crimes are suspended in front of them. Picture was taken recently by a visitor to the area, in eastern China. (AP wirephoto).

Leftists try to break "security belt" along Lebanese borders with Israel

IBL AS-SAQI, Lebanon, April 9 (R). — "Missed again," the Palestinian commander remarked coolly, seconds after a heavy-calibre shell slammed into the house next to his command post.

The deafening blast was followed by the tinkle of a cascade of glass from a window blown out by the force of the explosion.

Ibl As-Saqi is a leftist-Palestinian stronghold in southern Lebanon near the strategic town of Khyam, stormed by the Palestinians and their leftist allies Thursday as part of an offensive aimed at driving Israeli-backed rightists from positions near the Israeli border.

Before it was taken at dawn Thursday, Khyam was a strategic point in a triangle of rightist strongholds formed by the town itself and nearby Marjayoun and Qle'a. They are still in rightist hands.

Only a three-hour drive from Beirut with its bustling boutiques and cafes, the area here is a different world where the civil war — ended elsewhere in the country last November — is gaining in intensity.

As a landrover carrying

Palestinian commandos and a few correspondents bounced along the rutted track to Ibl As-Saqi, mortar shells from rightist positions landed increasingly closer.

Part of the road from Ibl As-Saqi to Khyam is in plain view of Marjayoun and even battle-hardened Abu Iyad of the Palestinian Fatah guerrilla organisation admitted to feeling uneasy as the jeep ground on.

"This is rather dangerous. One feels like the target in a shooting gallery," he said. One shell crashed next to the track less than 40 metres behind the jeep, sending up a plume of white smoke from the lush green spring grass.

In Ibl As-Saqi, 155-mm shells said to have been fired from Israel had torn gaping holes into the road.

The boom of incoming artillery from rightist positions in Marjayoun and Israeli batteries near the border town of Metulla underlined that peace is not just around the corner in southern Lebanon.

On the main road of Khyam, a house set ablaze by a 120-mm mortar shell filled the air with acrid smoke. "The shelling is aimed at keeping us inside," Abu Iyad said. "Perhaps they are afraid we will attack them."

There were no apparent preparations for an imminent attack on Marjayoun. However, the commander in charge of the force which took Khyam said commandos had received orders to break the "security belt" formed by Israeli-backed rightists along the border.

Fighters here said that about 5,000 civilians — roughly two-thirds of the original population — were still in Khyam. But correspondents saw no more than about two dozen civilians.

According to the commandos, most of the civilians were huddling inside their houses as shells continued to crash into the area.

Israel has consistently claimed that its artillery has fired across the border only in retaliation to attacks from Lebanon.

But correspondents today could clearly hear the sounds of Israeli batteries firing intermittently although there was no fire from leftwing Palestinian positions here.

Soviets plan to help Cuba build atomic power station

MOSCOW, April 9 (R). — The Soviet Union plans to help build an atomic power station in Cuba, according to an official Soviet report last night issued after a visit by Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Tass news agency said Soviet engineers would help build and install the power station's first section, with a ca-

capacity of 400 megawatts, later this year.

When complete, the station would have a capacity of 1,700 megawatts. Tass said Soviet and Cuban geologists had already surveyed the site of the project, part of a joint nuclear cooperation programme by the nine-member communist trading bloc, Comecon.

President Castro and Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev pledged in a communique "to do everything possible for strengthening the ties of the international communist countries, for promoting the interaction of the international communist and national liberation movements."

"The sides pledged their support for the peoples of Africa and Latin America, who are struggling against imperialism, for the right to determine their fate by themselves."

The Kremlin leadership Dr. Castro will probably have wanted to compare notes on how exactly the progress of support could be put into practice.

In a thinly-veiled reference to tonight's communique to the United States, both sides were solemnly condemned, although by some quarters in capital cities to complicate the task of strengthening peace and curbing arms race by offering artificial demands.

U.S. optimistic over SALT talks

WASHINGTON, April 9 (R). — The White House today voiced optimism over prospects for strategic arms curbs with the Soviet Union despite the breakdown of talks in Moscow last week.

Press Secretary Jody Powell said President Carter had never associated himself with predictions of chaos in Soviet-American relations following the breakdown of talks.

fore the secretary of state and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko hold planned talks in Geneva next month.

Mr. Powell said the continuing contacts between the Soviet Union and the United States were in keeping with President Carter's expectations.

"We remain hopeful that we can proceed with discussions and arrive at an agreement which will limit the arms race," he said.

Soviet Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev last week rejected proposals for sharp cuts in strategic nuclear weapons put to him by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Yesterday, however, Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin called on Mr. Vance in an effort to resume a dialogue be-

Mr. Powell refused to say if the United States would modify the proposals rejected by the Russians last week or expected the Soviet Union to make a counter-proposal.

But he observed that "the world is looking to both governments to negotiate in good faith."

Territorial issue is key to Cyprus settlement

NICOSIA, April 9 (R). — The territorial issue is the key to a settlement of the Cyprus problem, according to Greek Cypriot negotiator Mr. Tassos Papadopoulos.

Arriving here last night from inter-communal talks in Vienna, Mr. Papadopoulos said he hoped there would be a radical change in the Turkish Cypriot attitude and a desire to indicate the community's aims and intentions on the territorial issue.

A report in the Greek Cypriot daily Simerini today quoted an unnamed Western diplomatic source as saying the Turkish Cypriot side planned to present a map laying out its views.

The Greek Cypriot side tabled a map at the last Vienna talks giving up to 20 per cent of the land to the Turkish Cypriots — about half what they held now — but this was rejected.

Quakes kill 352 in Iran

TEHRAN, April 9 (R). — At least 352 people have been killed in earth tremors in central and southwest Iran, government-owned Pars news agency said tonight.

Fresh tremors rocked the region again yesterday and Gulf port of Bandar Abbas, by an earthquake last month, official reports said.

The first tremor, which gistered 5.5 on the open-end Richter scale, shook the central and southwest areas of Iran and the night before.

Army helicopters and transport planes have flown medical teams, food, tents, blankets and clothing to people in homeless.

Southern Iran was hit by 10 earthquakes six days ago and no casualties were reported.

At least 167 people died in a huge quake in the area month.

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

U.K. ATTACKS CARTER'S NUCLEAR INITIATIVE

LONDON, April 9 (R). — Britain's atomic energy chief, Sir John Hill, today attacked U.S. President Carter's nuclear initiative as likely to affect energy costs without halting the spread of atomic weapons.

"I believe President Carter is going about it the wrong way," said Sir John, whose atomic energy authority is heavily involved in major British plans to develop its peaceful nuclear capacity.

Britons were today still absorbing the U.S. president's moves to halt the American production on a commercial scale of plutonium, the raw ingredient of atomic bombs.

Environmentalists hoped that this would put heavy pressure on the British government to

think again about two major controversial projects which have already met opposition. Most politicians, including Prime Minister James Callaghan, welcomed the announcement but Mr. John McLachlan, of the trade union movement's fuel and power industries committee called it "a business stratagem designed to slow down the development of European reactors."

The Times newspaper said the development of atomic energy throughout West Europe, Japan and the developing countries has been thrown into confusion.

Commercial plutonium development is a vital issue for Britain, which plans to become a world leader in reprocessing spent nuclear fuel to extract plutonium.

Plans to develop a \$600 million reprocessing plant at Windscale in the northwest are being fought by environmentalists.

Sir John Hill's authority also plans a £1,500 million fast breeder reactor to exploit the highly efficient plutonium fuel.

In Paris, well informed sources said today that France will go ahead with its advanced nuclear technology policy despite President Carter's decision to postpone U.S. plutonium industry developments.

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said that President Carter's action would be studied clearly in Paris. But he noted that Mr. Carter specified his decisions applied only to the U.S. and were not intended to influence other countries.

The sources said this reaction was a clear indication that France intends to press ahead with its fast breeder reactor and nuclear fuel reprocessing programmes.

Yesterday President Carter announced that he was allowing the development of U.S. fast breeder reactors and halting the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuels, both of which produce plutonium.

Mr. Carter said he hoped that Britain, France, West Germany and other countries capable of producing plutonium would join him in international efforts to avoid the danger of nuclear weapons proliferation.

Hong Kong plays big role in Chinese foreign trade

HONG KONG, April 9 (AFP). — Hong Kong's important role in China's foreign trade emerges from an analysis of the latest statistics.

It can also be seen from these figures that Hong Kong's economy benefits considerably by virtue of the type of Chinese goods bought.

These products, in order of importance, are staple and non-staple food, clothing and other consumer goods, industrial raw materials, machine equipment and fuel oil products.

Cheaper than Western imports all these things help keep the cost of living down for a population of over four million Chinese and contribute to industrial production, the mainstay of Hong Kong's export-oriented economy.

These key imports have burgeoned in the past four years, rising from a total value of HK dollars 5,610 million (\$1,122 million) in 1973 to HK dollars 7,900 million (\$1,580 million) last year.

On the one hand valuable exchange earnings for China. On the other, imports valuable to Hong Kong's wherewithal. This benefit is freely acknowledged by government and economic experts as illustrated by last month's annual report of the British-managed General Chamber of Commerce.

In this, chamber Leslie Gordon said: "I feel I must again pay tribute to the trade policies of the People's Republic of China."

"These have materially assisted Hong Kong to maintain a low inflation rate and stability in food supply."

"There is also a welcome continuation of China's interest in participating directly in our development with the

expansion of oil storage and distribution systems and support for other major industrial ventures."

In spite of her own needs China is selling a growing volume of oil products to Hong Kong.

In 1975 and last year this volume was around 600,000 tons and more is expected this year to meet some 30 per cent of Hong Kong's oil requirements.

The semi-official Chinese trading organisation "China Resources" is currently developing multi-million-dollar oil storage depots here.

From oil to water is a big jump, but water too is being piped to Hong Kong from neighbouring Kwangtung province at the British government's request to meet population and industrial needs.

In the past couple of years Hong Kong has been getting regularly 18,500 million gallons of drinking water from China. The total from the contract period of October 1976 to September 1977 is to be increased to 24,000 million gallons.

The big rise in China's chief exports to Hong Kong in the past four years is shown by the following 1973 and 1976 values in terms of U.S. dollars. The 1976 value is in parentheses:

Staple and non-staple food, \$480 million (\$680 million). Clothing and other consumer goods, \$300 million (\$360 million).

Industrial raw materials, \$320 million (\$440 million). Machine equipment, \$20 million (\$40 million).

Fuel oil products, \$2 million (\$60 million).

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

BONN, April 9 (R). — The West German government has authorised the delivery of plans for a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant to Brazil under the terms of their atomic power agreement, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

NEW DELHI, April 9 (AFP). — India and Italy have agreed to cooperate mutually in the peaceful uses of atomic energy between the Atomic Energy Commission of India and the National Committee for Nuclear Energy of Italy, it was officially disclosed here today.

Effective April 3rd, 1977

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*20.15	dp. AMMAN	*19.10
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03.55	dp. KARACHI	15.00

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